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Title:
Speech at Ukranian cultural evening

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT UKRANIAN CULTURAL EVENING.

ADELAIDE. 28.12.73

MR CIURAK, MR ROSTEK, YOUR GRACE (BISHOP PROSHKE),
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION AND FOR
ASKING ME TO SPEAK. MAY I EXTEND A PARTICULARLY WARM
WELCOME TO OUR INTERSTATE GUESTS.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY AN EVENING OF GREAT PLEASURE AND
ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL OF US HERE. FOR THE PEOPLE OF
UKRANIAN BIRTH OR DESCENT IT MUST ALSO BE A MATTER OF
MUCH PRIDE.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY IN
WHICH THE UKRANIANS IN AUSTRALIA - AND THE 3,000 STRONG
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT IN PARTICULAR - HAVE ASSIMILATED
THEMSELVES INTO OUR WAY OF LIFE - BUT NOT AT THE PRICE OF
LOSING THEIR DISTINCTIVE CULTURE.

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2.

UKRANIANS HAVE RETAINED A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY AND
ARE JUSTLY NOTED AS A GROUP, AND AS INDIVIDUALS FOR
THEIR VIGOUR, ENTERPRISE AND PRIDE OF HERITAGE.

THE MAIN INFLUX OF UKRANIAN MIGRANTS HERE, OF COURSE,
CAME AFTER THE UPHEAVALS OF WORLD WAR TWO.

THEY, OFTEN ARRIVED AFTER TIMES OF VERY GREAT HARDSHIP,
DISTRESS AND PERSONAL TRAGEDY. IT WAS, I THINK,
CHARACTERISTIC OF THE STRENGTH OF THE UKRANIAN PEOPLE AS
A WHOLE THAT IN ADDITION TO WORKING HARD AND LONG TO
MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR FAMILIES THEY ALSO FORGED
STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS.

THE VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS FORMED THEN AND THE FEDERAL
ASSOCIATION HAVE DONE A SUPERB JOB IN KEEPING ALIVE
THE SENSE OF UKRANIAN CONSCIOUSNESS.

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3.

THE SUCCESS OF THEIR WORK IS OBVIOUS TONIGHT AND IS OF BENEFIT TO ALL OF US.

AUSTRALIA IS, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, A MULTI-CULTURAL COUNTRY. WITHIN A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK WE HAVE LIVELY AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES FROM MANY COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING THE BEST OF THEIR HERITAGE TO THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE. WE'RE ALL WINNERS AS A RESULT. THE WAY IN WHICH OUR STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS LEAPED AHEAD IN THE PAST THREE DECADES AND THE WAY IN WHICH OUR WAY OF LIFE HAS BEEN ENRICHED AND MADE MORE CIVILISED BY THE VARIOUS MIGRANT GROUPS IS PROOF OF THAT.

I HOPE THAT GROUPS SUCH AS THE UKRANIAN COMMUNITY - AUSTRALIAN BUT DISTINCTIVELY AUSTRALIAN - WILL ALWAYS PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART IN OUR COMMUNITY LIFE.

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4.

IT IS I THINK PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT THIS FUNCTION TAKES PLACE ON PROCLAMATION DAY COMMEMORATING AS IT DOES THE FOUNDERS OF PRESENT DAY SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IT'S A REMINDER THAT WE DRAW AS MUCH FROM A NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING TRADITION AS WE DO FROM THE BRITISH.

THE GROUP INVOLVED TONIGHT HAVE OBVIOUSLY GONE TO VERY GREAT PAINS TO MAKE THIS EVENING A SUCCESS.

THEIR VARIOUS DISPLAYS ARE A GREAT CREDIT TO THEM AND TO THE ENTIRE UKRANIAN COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU.